



# Fire Update

**Meadow Fire**

**Nez Perce  
National Forest**

**September 13, 2006 9:00 am**

**Internet Address:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>

or: <http://www.inciweb.org>

**For Fire Information Phone: (208) 842-9225 open 8 am to 9 pm**

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Fire Facts**

**The Meadow Fire is managed by Doug Turman's Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.**

**Date Started:** September 3, 2006    **Cause of Ignition:** lightning    **Location:** Red River, Idaho

**Size:** 6,700 acres    **Percent Contained:** 10%    **Estimated Time of Containment:** Unknown

**Number of Personnel:** 196    **Equipment:** 1 feller buncher, 1 dozer, 1 skidgine, 6 engines, 3 water tenders, 2 excavators, 1 brush cutter

**Aircraft:** Shared air resources with the Nez Perce NF and other surrounding large fires

**20-person crews:** 5, including 2 Hotshot crews

**Cost to date:** \$917,000    **Injuries Today:** 0

**Cooperators:** Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Idaho County Emergency Management Services, Nez Perce National Forest

## **Fire Activity on the Meadow Fire Influenced by Inversion**

**Red River, Idaho** –Fire activity on Tuesday was influenced by a persistent inversion that reduced fire intensity. Smoke and visible fire activity were evident across the western and eastern parts of the fire. Increased burning activity is expected to occur on Wednesday if winds increase as predicted. If the inversion doesn't lift, winds may not be as high and fire activity will be lessened. The areas of the fire that spotted across the line in the western section on Tuesday continued to burn lightly, but didn't increase in area. The spots that occurred in Fourmile Creek drainage and near Granite Creek Campground on Tuesday had some growth as the fire crept through ground fuels. As a result of this renewed activity, acreage of the Meadow Fire increased to 6,700 acres. Two 20-person crews and a water tender continued to support the Nez Perce National Forest firefighters on the Baker Fire southwest of Elk City. The Lolo Hotshots continued to provide support to the Heavens Gate complex.

The Incident Command Post for the Meadow Fire is located at Red River Ranger Station and the fire camp is located at York's field. Local residents are encouraged to reduce speeds due to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

### **Yesterday's Fire Activities**

Sprinkler systems, hoses and pumps around residences in the area between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs were maintained. Fuels reduction efforts continued around residences. Crews and equipment continued to support structure protection efforts on the northwest side of the fire closest to private land. The fire slowly burned back into the Red River drainage within the fire perimeter. Portions of the fire experienced ground fire with limited torching. Firefighting resources, including engines and water tenders, continued to patrol and monitor the northwest and west side of the fire to keep the fire from moving further downslope into Red River and to support structure protection activities. Areas in the western part of the fire were reassessed and options developed for future containment strategies. There have been no evacuations during this fire event.

Facilities protection remains in place at 14 Mile Trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout. The fire has burned to within several hundred yards of Granite Springs Campground, with new spot fires located immediately north of Granite Springs Campground and southwest of the campground in Fourmile Creek.

### **Today's Planned Events**

Today's priority will continue to be firefighter and public safety. Primary emphasis will continue to be structure protection along Forest Road 234 between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs. Crews will continue with hazardous fuel reduction activities around residences and private land.

Crews will work to surround the spotting on the west side. The number one hazard continues to be snags and green trees with weakened root systems from fire damage. Engines will patrol along the Montana Road to catch any spot fires.

Two 20-person crews and a water tender from the Meadow Fire have been temporarily assigned to the 27-acre Baker Fire located southwest of Elk City. They expect to complete mop-up efforts today. The Lolo Hotshot crew has been temporarily assigned to the Heavens Gate Complex near Riggins, Idaho to assist with burnout operations.

### **Today's Weather Forecast and Fire Behavior**

Weather continues to change around the fire area. Temperatures will be around 70 on the fire and relative humidity will reach a low of about 20%. Winds are expected to increase by mid-day from the south and southwest. Wind speeds should be from 12-18 mph with possible gusts up to 30. Maximum temperatures today will be 70 degrees in the fire area. Minimum relative humidity will reach 20%. Increasing winds in combination with warm temperatures and low relative humidity will contribute to active burning across the fire area. Weather outlook for Thursday is for temperatures to drop substantially as a low pressure trough passes through the fire with limited precipitation.

Short and medium range spotting will probably occur today, especially on tops of ridges exposed to higher winds. Growth is expected in the Fourmile Creek and Granite Springs area, possibly reaching the Montana Road. If the inversion doesn't lift, winds may not increase with reduced fire activity. The majority of the fire area is mostly uncontrolled fire perimeter made up of numerous spot fires. Ground vegetation under the tree canopy is still dry and will contribute to increased single and group tree torching. Tree regeneration in past harvest units and old burn areas from previous fires should still serve as effective barriers to fire spread in some areas under these conditions.

### **Area, Road and Trail Closures**

For public safety, an area closure is currently in effect throughout the area surrounding the fire, including areas where the fire is most likely to spread as it becomes more active. Access to the forest is closed at the following locations: Forest Road 234 (except to local residents) and the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) at the Red River Ranger Station to Poet Creek on the east side of the Magruder Corridor; and Road 423 to Black Hawk Mountain. The closure is not expected to be lifted until fire conditions improve. Visit the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) for maps and other information about the closure. Specific questions about the closure can be directed to the Red River Ranger Station at (208) 842-2245.

### **Other Messages**

Hunters in the area are reminded that fire activity will increase today as winds increase in the area. Be on the lookout for smoke from holdover lightning strikes from last week's storms that may show up, and report them as soon as possible. Hunters are also reminded to put all fires dead out, both camp fires and warming fires, so they don't contribute to additional fire starts. Hunters and other recreationists also need to be alert for dead trees that may fail, especially during windy periods. Fire crews and equipment are moving through the area and the public is asked to drive defensively as they travel through the Red River area.

END